

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:JDFINNEY:JCM

APPROVED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL

L/OES:RBETTAUER(SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143302

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENNA 5232 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
GENEVA USUN NEW YORK 12 JUNE 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 5232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: STATE 119953

WE MADE REPRESENTATION OF U.S. POSITION ON SUBJECT
CONFERENCE TO MFA CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
AFFAIRS, WEIDINGER, AND URGED THAT GOA CONSIDER SWITCH-
ING ITS VOTE FROM ABSTENTION, AS IT HAD DONE AT DIPLO-
MATIC CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR, TO OPPOSITION IF GOA
DECIDES TO REPLY TO ICRC ON QUESTION OF EXTENDING IN-
VITATION TO PRG. WEIDINGER SAID THAT DECISION HAS
NOT YET BEEN REACHED AND MAY WELL BE POSTPONED UNTIL
END OF JUNE WHEN NEW MFA GENERAL SECRETARY HEYMERLE
TAKES OFFICE. HE PROMISED THAT OUR ORAL
ARGUMENTS AND THOSE CONTAINED IN USG RESPONSE TO ICRC
(COPY WAS LEFT WITH HIM) WOULD BE GIVEN VERY SERIOUS
CONSIDERATION.

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COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER AFTER

MFA HAS HAD TIME TO FOCUS ON LEGAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL ASPECTS. AT THIS JUNCTURE, WE CAN SAFELY ASSUME THAT GOA WILL NOT OPT FOR INVITING PRG. HOWEVER, DESPITE GOA'S DISINCLINATION TO HAVE PRG PARTICIPATE, BEST WE MAY BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE IS ABSTENTION UNLESS, OF COURSE, OTHER NEUTRALS (SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND) AND POSSIBLY SOME OF OUR NATO ALLIES WHO ABSTAINED IN FEBRUARY CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR WERE TO OPPOSE PRG INVITATION TO ICRC MEETING.HUMES

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